

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-03
OMB-01 /077 W
-----221047Z 063526 /10

R 221105Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2011
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, FR
SUBJECT: GOF PRIMIN TAKES OVER RESEARCH FROM INDUSTRY
MINISTRY

REF: PARIS 10460

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1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APRIL 19' 1977, APPROVED
DECREE TRANSFERRING TO PRIMIN RESPONSIBILITIES
FORMERLY HELD BY INDUSTRY MINISTER, FORMERLY MINISTER
OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH, REGARDING DEFINITION AND
COORDINATION OF RESEARCH POLICY. TO CARRY OUT THESE
FUNCTIONS, THE PRIMIN WILL BE ASSISTED BY THE GENERAL
DELEGATION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

(DGRST). HE WILL ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH, INCLUDING ALL MINISTERS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH (DEPENDING ON SUBJECT MATTER) AND THE DGRST. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PRIMIN WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ALL DECISIONS AT INTERMINISTERIAL LEVEL--FORMERLY RESPONSIBILITY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH MINISTER. HOWEVER, LATTER MINISTER WILL RETAIN HIS PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN ATOMIC ENERGY, EXPLOITATION OF OCEANS, AND SPACE STUDIES.

2. A NEW STATE SECRETARY (A LEVEL DIRECTLY BELOW THAT OF MINISTER) FOR RESEARCH, MR. JACQUES SOURDILLE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO ASSIST THE PRIMIN IN PERFORMING THESE DUTIES.

3. THE OFFICE OF THE STATE SECRETARY HAS JUST ISSUED A STATEMENT ON ITS THREE OBJECTIVES:

A) STRESS THE LEADING PART PLAYED BY RESEARCH IN BUILDING THE FUTURE AND RAISING THE LEVEL OF CULTURE AND WELFARE;

B) MAINTAIN CONDITIONS FOR THE INTELLECTUAL AND MATERIAL INDEPENDENCE OF FRANCE AND ITS CAPACITY FOR FREE COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS; AND

C) EMPHASIZE THE ROLE WHICH CAN BE PLAYED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESEARCH IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH THE ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNIQUES, THE CONQUEST OF EXTERNAL MARKETS AND, OFTEN, THE RECONQUEST OF DOMESTIC MARKETS.

4. AFTER NOTING THAT THIS OBJECTIVE IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GUIDELINES DEFINED IN 1975 AND IN THE VIITH PLAN, THE STATEMENT INDICATES THE MAIN APPROACHES WHICH HAVE BEEN SELECTED IN ORDER TO REVITALIZE GOF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

A) RESEARCH CARRIED OUT BY UNIVERSITIES AND LARGE ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE BROUGHT CLOSER TOGETHER AND DIVISIONS BROKEN DOWN IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR A BETTER EXCHANGE OF IDEAS;

B) EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO EXPLOIT INVENTIONS MORE RAPIDLY IN INDUSTRY AND OTHER ECONOMIC AREAS;

C) COORDINATION THROUGH STRONG BUDGETARY CONTROLS
WILL MAKE THE BEST OF THE EVALUATION OF
RESULTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNITY; AND

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D) PUBLIC OPINION WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS
AND PROSPECTS OF RESEARCH.

5. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO
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MAKE EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG, UNDERSTAND THE
ROLE OF RESEARCHERS FACING THE PROBLEMS OF OUR TIMES:
POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,
MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH, AND KNOWLEDGE OF
MATTER AND NEW ENERGIES.

6. COMMENT: THE GOF CIVILIAN RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT
HAS BEEN DIRECTLY ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE BEFORE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE
PRESENT MOVE OF THAT FUNCTION WILL REALLY RAISE THE
GOF'S PRIORITY FOR RESEARCH, OR WHETHER IT IS MERE
WINDOW DRESSING. THE MENTION OF BUDGETARY COORDINATION,
FOR EXAMPLE, COULD INDICATE AN ACTUAL LOWERING OF
OVERALL RESEARCH EFFORT AS DUPLICATIONS (REAL OR
SUPPOSED) ARE ELIMINATED. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, THE
EMBASSY'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT IT WILL NOT
SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO RESEARCH
AS A WHOLE BUT WILL TEND TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO
APPLIED AS OPPOSED TO BASIC RESEARCH. END COMMENT
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